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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:MTANNER
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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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P 301745Z MAY 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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UNCLAS STATE 126168 TOSEC 020146

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO TEL AVIV FROM
CAIRO 29 MAY 75:

QUOTE UNCLAS CAIRO 5365

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR EG IS
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER TO VICE PRESIDENT
ROCKEFELLER

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DEPUTY SPEAKER DR. OTEIFI REQUESTED
EMBASSY MAY 29 TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SAYED MAREI TO VP
ROCKEFELLER IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF SENATE.

1. BEGIN TEXT: THE HONORABLE NELSON ROCKEFELLER,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

2. ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF EGYPT
I WOULD LIKE TO REFER TO THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY 76 MEMBERS
OF THE SENATE ON THE AMERICAN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

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3. I ASSURE YOU AT THE ONSET THAT IT IS NOT MY
INTENTION TO INTERVENE IN A MATTER PERTAINING TO
THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SENATE AND THE
ADMINISTRATION, NOR IN THE DESIRABILITY EXPRESSED

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IN THE LETTER FOR A GREATER PARTICIPATION BY
THE CONGRESS IN THE FORMULATION OF AMERICAN FOREIGN
POLICY.

4. HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF EGYPT, HAVING
CONSIDERED THE TEXT OF THE AFOREMENTIONED LETTER,
COULD NOT HAVE IGNORED THE POSSIBLE DESTRUCTIVE AND
NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION
ON THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF EGYPT BY ITS
RESOLUTION DATED 25 MAY 1975, EXPRESSED ITS EXTREME
REGRET FOR THIS UNTIMELY MOVE, ITS CONTENTS, ITS
POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AS WELL AS ITS DANGEROUS
REFLECTIONS ON THE UNITED STATES IMAGE AND THE
ACTIVE ROLE IT IS SUPPOSED TO PLAY SO FAR AS
THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS CONCERNED. THE
ASSEMBLY CONSIDERS THAT ENCOURAGING ISRAEL'S
EXPANSION AND SANCTIONING ISRAEL'S DISREGARD OF
THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES
CONSTITUTE A MOST UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT. ANOTHER
IMPLICATION IS THAT A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE SENATE APPROVES OF ISRAEL'S EXPANSION AND
OCCUPATION OF TERRITORIES BY FORC. THE ASSEMBLY,
THEREFORE, REGRETS THAT SUCH A STAND WOULD BE
ESPOUSED BY A NUMBER OF AMERICAN LEGISLATORS AND
DEPLORES SUCH A BIASED AND PARTIAL STAND. AT THE
SAME TIME, THE ASSEMBLY SALUTES THE COURAGEOUS AND
PRINCIPLED STAND OF THOSE SENATORS WHO REFUSED
TO SIGN SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE LETTER AND/OR EXPLAINED
THEIR POSITION OBJECTIVELY THEREAFTER.

6. LET ME NOW TAKE ISSUE WITH SOME OF THE POINTS
CONTAINED IN THE LETTER.

7. FIRST, THE LETTER PUTS THE WHOLE ISSUE OF PEACE
IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN A FALSE AND ONE-SIDED
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FRAMEWORK, THAT IS ISRAEL'S SECURITY. THE ISSUE,
MR. VICE PRESIDENT, IS HOW TO PROCEED TO ESTABLISH
A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE WHERE ALL THE PEOPLES AND
EVERY STATE IN THE AREA, I REPEAT, EVERY STATE --
AND NOT ISRAEL ALONE -- CAN LIVE IN PEACE, PEACE
WHICH CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE CONTINUED
AND UNLIMITED AMERICAN MILITARY SUPPLIES TO
ISRAEL. IN FACT THIS COURSE OF ACTION WILL
FURTHER ENCOURAGE THE ISRAELI CONQUESTS AND NOT
ITS SECURITY AS STIPULATED IN UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 OF 22 NOVEMBER 1967.
THIS COURSE OF ACTION WOULD ON THE CONTRARY LEAD
TO A PERMANENT THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF OTHER

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COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN THE AREA AS WELL AS TO
ANOTHER ARMS RACE WHICH WOULD AFFECT BOTH THE
CAUSE OF PEACE AND THE EFFORTS DEPLOYED TO ACHIEVE
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. IN KEEPING WITH
THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY YOUR COUNTRY SHOULDERS
IN WORLD AFFAIRS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
APPROPRIATE TO CALL FOR A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE AND
DYNAMIC ROLE BY THE UNITED STATES IN THIS CONFLICT
BASED ON IMPARTIALITY, IF INDEED IT WISHES TO
SEE A DURABLE PEACE PREVAILING IN THE AREA.

8. THE SECOND POINT RAISED IN THE LETTER
PERTAINS TO ANOTHER MISCONCEPTION, NAMELY THAT THE
ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT SHOULD BE SETTLED ON THE
BASIS OF SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES "THAT
ARE DEFENSIBLE."

9. IT IS ASTONISHING TO SEE 76 OF THE MUCH
RESPECTED AMERICAN LEGISLATORS INVOKE SUCH A
WORK-OUT CONCEPT, THAT OF DEFENSIBLE BOUNDARIES
WHICH AMOUNTS TO AN OPEN INVITATION TO ISRAEL TO
INSIST ON RETAINING TERRITORIES THAT SHE--AND
SHE ALONE -- WOULD CONSIDER AS NEEDED FOR ITS
"DEFENSE." THIS ATTITUDE CONSTITUTES A
TOTAL DISREGARD FOR THE PRINCIPLES AND
PURPOSES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE CHARTER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH PROHIBITS THE
ACQUISITION OF TERRITORIES BY FORCE AS WELL AS A
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BETRAYAL OF THE VERY NATIONS THAT ARE THE MOST
PART OF THE AMERICAN HERITAGE. MOREOVER, IT HAS
BEEN PROVED BY CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT SUCH A
POLICY IS THE SHORTEST CUT TO RENEWED VIOLENCE RATHER
THAN TO PEACE. IT IS ALSO UNREALISITC AND IN
FACT UNHEARD OF IN THE WORLD OF TODAY THAT A COUNTRY INSISTS
ON HAVING DEFENSIBLE BORDERS, FOR ONLY PEACE
BASED ON JUSTICE CAN SPARE US ALL THE PERILS OF
WARS AND THREATS AGAINST OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF
SECURITY. IF THE NOTION OF DEFENSIBLE BOUNDARIES
WOULD PREVAIL, THEN WE WILL BE SAWING HAVOC IN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THREATENING INTERNATIONAL
ORDER. FURTHERMORE, WHAT ABOUT THE BORDERS OF
ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS WHICH WERE VILATED TIME AND
AGAIN BY THE INVADING -- AND WELL-ARMED -- ISRAELI
ARMED FORCES. I INDEED REGRET SUCH DOUBLE-STANDARDS
IN DEALING WITH DELICATE INTERNATIONAL
PROBLEMS ON THE PART OF THOSE SENATORS WHO SIGNED
THE UNFORTUNATE LETTER REFERRED TO ABOVE.

8. THE THIRD POINT RELATES TO THE AMERICAN NEED

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FOR RELIABLE ALLIES AND THAT A STRONG ISRAEL
CONSTITUTED THE MOST RELIABLE BARRIER TO FOREIGN
DOMINATION. I SUBMIT, MR. VICE PRESIDENT, THAT ISRAEL,
ITS POLICY OF CONQUEST AND EXPANSION -- AS SANCTIONED
BY THE 76 SENATORS -- AS WELL AS THE POLICY OF
ARMING ISRAEL TO AN UNPARALLELED LEVEL -- WILL
ALL CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER THREATEN THE AREA
WITH FOREIGN DOMINATION. EGYPT HAS REPEATEDLY
MANIFESTED ITS DETERMINATION TO SHUN AND REFUSE
SUCH DOMINATION AS IT FIRMLY REFUSES AND WILL
CONTINUE TO RESIST BY ALL MEANS AVAILABLE TO HER THE
CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF ITS TERRITORIES. AS
FOR ISRAEL HELPING TO SAFEGUARD AMERICAN
NATIONAL INTERESTS, I FAIL TO SEE HOW
WOULD SUCH INTERESTS BE SAFEGUARDED BY ALIENATING
ALL OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, BY THE MILITARY
OCCUPATION OF THEIR LANDS, BY THE USURPATION OF THEIR
RIGHTS AND THE CONSTANT THREAT TO THEIR SOVEREIGNTY,
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE.
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IF THIS WOULD BE THE CASE, IT WOULD THEN
CONSTITUTE A TRAGIC AND INDEED MOST UNFORTUNATE
DEFINITION OF AMERICAN NATIONAL INTERESTS.

9. FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO REFER TO THE
POINT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF "PEACE" AND
WHAT IT REQUIRES. IT IS DEPLORABLE INDEED
TO CALL THE PREVAILING STATE OF AFFAIRS AS A
STATE OF PEACE, IT IS MORE DEPLORABLE TO STATE
THAT PEACE "REQUIRES THAT ISRAEL OBTAIN A LEVEL
OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT ADEQUATE TO DETER
A RENEWAL OF WAR BY ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS." THIS
IS A FLAGRANT ENDORSEMENT OF THE STATE OF NO
WAR - NO PEACE THAT THE 76 SENATORS ERRONEOUSLY
CALL A STATE OF PEACE. SUCH A POSITION WILL INDEED
AFFECT THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE AND THREATEN
THE AMERICAN NATIONAL INTERESTS AND ITS FRIENDLY
RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA WHICH
WILL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ACCEPT TO BE
"DETERRED" FROM REGAINING THEIR RIGHTS AND
TERRITORIES BY A MASSIVE REARMAMENT OF ISRAEL.
RECENT WORLD EVENTS HAVE PROVED BEYOND DOUBT
THAT MASSIVE ARMAMENTS CANNOT LEAD TO PEACE, IT
HAS IN FACT LED TO THE INTENSIFICATION OF
RESISTANCE AND CONTINUED STRUGGLE AND THE
PROLONGATION OF WAR.

10. EGYPT ON ITS PART, IS DETERMINED IN ITS
QUEST FOR A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE AS IS
CLEAR FROM THE RECORDS OF UNITED NATIONS,
THE COOPERATION WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER

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AND ITS RECENT DECISIONS. THE REOPENING OF
THE SUEZ CANAL IS A CASE AT POINT. THIS WAS
ALSO CLEAR, I AM SURE, FROM THE VARIOUS MEETINS
HELD BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND MANY A SENATOR
INCLUDING SEVERAL OF THOSE WHO SIGNED THE
REGRETTABLE ANTI-PEACE LETTER.

11. EGYPT WILL CONTINUE TO
COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION
IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE AREA. IN THIS
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WE SHALL SEEK THE SUPPORT OF THE ENLIGHTENED
SNEATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WHO COMMAND THE VISION
TO SEE WHERE THE TRUE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THEIR
COUNTRY REST.

12. HOWEVER, THE SAD FACT REMAINS THAT SUCH A
THOUGHTLESS ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF SOME OF YOUR
LEGISLATORS DOES NOT IN THE LEAST ENCOURAGE THE
PROSPECTS OF A PEACEFUL ERA IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
IT MAKES THEM VERY DIM INDEED.

13. I REQUEST THAT THIS CABLE BE BROUGHT TO THE
KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND BE
INCLUDED IN THE SENATE'S RECORDS.

14. PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. VICE PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES
OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

SIGNED:
SAYED MAREI, SPEAKER

END TEXT. EILTS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS, TOSEC 020146
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE126168
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S-O:MTANNER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 NA
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750190-0007
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505104/baaaalfv.tel
Line Count: 255
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

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05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON A), (OTEIFI)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006